

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CONNECTICUT,

In favor of a discriminating tariff, and of abolishing the credit system.

JULY 25, 1842.

Read, and ordered to be printed.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

RESOLUTIONS IN RELATION TO THE TARIFF.

Whereas, prior to the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, the several States possessed power and authority to lay discriminating duties on importations, for the purposes of revenue and protection; and, whereas, by the adoption of said Constitution such power and authority was surrendered by the States to the General Government; and, whereas, such power and authority has been exercised by the General Government ever since the adoption of said Constitution by various enactments, based upon the principle of discrimination, thereby affording protection and encouragement to the agricultural and manufacturing interests of the people of the States, by a system of discriminating duties upon such articles of foreign growth, produce, and manufacture, as came into competition with domestic products; and, whereas, many of our fellow-citizens, relying on the stability of the policy adopted and continued by the General Government, have invested large amounts of capital in various pursuits, in which further encouragement is essential to their prosperity, and conducive to the general welfare; therefore,

Resolved, That it is the right and the duty of Congress to adopt a system of discriminating duties on imports, to raise such an amount of revenue as, with the avails of the sales of the public lands, shall be sufficient to defray the expenses of a wise and prudent administration of the Government.

Resolved, That, in adopting a tariff, rendered necessary by the present state of the public revenue, sound policy requires that it be so adjusted as to afford essential protection to the manufacturing, mechanical, and agricultural interests of the country.

Resolved, That we coincide with the sentiments expressed by his excellency, the Governor, "that it is the duty of every government, as an agency established by the people for their own benefit, promptly and freely to exert its constitutional powers in behalf of the various interests of society."

Resolved, That while we yield to the principles of the act of Congress, passed on the 2d day of March, 1833, and generally known as the "Compromise Act," in limiting the duties on imports to such an amount of revenue "as may be necessary to an economical administration of the Government," including, of course, ample provision for the defence of the country: yet we hold to the right and duty of Congress so to discriminate in the distribution

of those duties over the list of imports, as may render the best and most efficient encouragement and protection to American industry, whether employed in the factory, the workshop, the field, or upon the ocean.

Resolved, That we consider one of the best provisions of the act of Congress aforesaid, to be that which requires all duties on foreign goods, after the 30th of June, 1842, to be paid in "ready money"—a provision that should never be departed from; because, in thus requiring gold and silver, the only "money" known to the Constitution, to be paid on the products of foreign workshops, and dispensing with custom-house credits, we impose a wholesome check upon those undue facilities heretofore extended to our foreign competitors, which have often proved ruinous to our own citizens; and we at the same time furnish a salutary antidote to the extravagances of excessive and capricious banking, the evils of which paralyze the arm of industry, wherever they spread.

Resolved, That the inaction of Congress on the subject of a tariff, merits and receives our decided disapprobation. We did expect that an *exhausted Treasury*, forced loans, desolated manufactories, unemployed operatives, and doubtful and gloomy prospects before us all, would have furnished sufficient incentives to arouse every American citizen to speedy and effective action; but since these fail, we respectfully instruct our Senators, and request our Representatives in Congress, to use their best energies to secure the passage of a bill, embracing the views expressed in the foregoing resolutions.

Resolved, That his excellency, the Governor, be, and he is hereby requested to forward a copy of these resolutions to the Executive of the several States, and to each of our Senators and Representatives in the Congress of the United States.

IN SENATE, 1842—passed.

E. S. ABERNETHY, *Clerk*.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 1842—Passed.

R. S. HINMAN, *Clerk*.

Approved, June 10, 1842.

C. F. CLEVELAND.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
Hartford, July 9, 1842.

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of record in this office.

N. A. PHELPS,
Secretary of State.